

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /023 W

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P 261316Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9466

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: EDUCATION PACKAGE - AZORES AGREEMENT

1. PROFS. NEAL AND BEAUCHANP ARRIVED IN LISBON APRIL 24. COUP D'ETAT TOOK PLACE EARLY MORNING HOURS APRIL 25. AT 10 AM APRIL 25, RALHA WENT TO THEIR HOTEL TO INFORM THEM THAT INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES FOR TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1974-75, SCHEDULED FOR THAT MORNING, WERE CANCELED. RALHA SAID THAT WHEN EVENTS UNDER WAY HAD RUN THEIR COURSE, HE EXPECTED TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM TO CONTINUE.

2. MORNING OF APRIL 26 HE SENT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CAR TO HOTEL TO FETCH NEAL AND BEAUCHAMP AND BRING THEM TO MINISTRY FOR INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES. RALHA SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS FUNCTIONING NORMALLY WITH ALL EMPLOYEES, FROM LEVEL OF DIRECTOR GENERAL ON DOWN RALHA'S LEVEL, AT THEIR DESKS.

3. RALHA HAS INFORMED EMBOFF HE SEES NO REASON NOT TO PROCEED WITH VISIT OF UNIVERSITY RECTORS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MAY 4. (SEE LISBON 1500).

4. NO WORD ON WHERE OR WHAT EDUCATION MINISTER VEIGA SIMAO IS UP TO. EMBASSY HAS HAD ONE REPORT THAT HE CALLED STAFF OF MINISTRY TOGETHER APRIL 24, DAY BEFORE COUP GOT UNDER WAY, TO BID THEM GOODBY.

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5. COMMENT: POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL

REFORM PROGRAM RUNS DEEP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN
A PUBLIC OPINION POLL PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS IN DEC
1971, 70 PERCENT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC (80 PERCENT
OF THE UPPER SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS) WERE SAID TO RATE
EDUCATION AS THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM CONFRONTING
PORTGUAL AT THAT TIME. WHILE VEIGA SIMAO'S
FUTURE IS UNCLEAR, WE EXPECT THE REFORM PROGRAM
HE LAUNCHED WILL HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE
SPINOLA GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.

6. CU/WE MAY WISH TO INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS
AT NORTHWESTERN AND TEXAS THAT BEAUCHAMP AND NEAL ARE
OKAY AND PROCEEDING WITH THE PROGRAM.

POST

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